GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3207
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2001
CHILD LABOUR
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the basic facilities and infrastructure required to eliminate child labour in the country is still lagging behind;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received foreign assistance to eliminate child labour in the country during the past few years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which that foreign assistance have been spent; and

(d) the extent to which child labour have been eliminated in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) to (d): Government has taken a series of steps to address the problem of child labour in the country. A National Policy on Child Labour was announced by the Government in 1987. This envisages strict enforcement of child labour related laws enforced through machinery of the Central and State level, convergence of services for the benefit of parents of child labour in order to improve their economic conditions and launching of projects in areas of high concentration of child labour which are implemented through societies set up at the District level.

India has been participating in the International Labour Organisation`s (ILO) International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) since 1992.Under the programme, funds are provided by the ILO Area Office to the implementing agencies after approval of action programmes by National Steering Committee. As per information given by the ILO, it has implemented 161 child labour projects through government/semi-government institutions, NGOs, trade unions and employers organizations. The amount distributed on projects from 1992 till date is approximately US $ 5.0 million.

Child labour is a complex socio-economic problem, which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted for withdrawal from work and their rehabilitation.